Oklahoma Chess Monthly

MAY 2021

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

Unusual Chess Stuff in the Movies – Sean Connery

In This Issue:

- RRSO 24
- Unusual Chess in the Movies
- Upcoming Tournaments List
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

RED RIVER SHOOTOUT RIDES AGAIN!

Oklahoma 5½ — Texas 4½

Saturday April 17, Fort Worth, TX

Anna Boevers Leads Okie Team to Victory!

by Victor Yaward, Ace Texas Chess Reporter

Anna Boevers, ranked 43rd in the nation for all girls age 17, spearheaded a furious Okie comeback and led the Oklahoma Chess Team to a thrilling narrow victory in RRSO XIX. She won her match while all the others were ties.

At halftime, Texas enjoyed an overwhelming 4-1 lead and the start of an apparent rout. According to Chief Organizer and TD *Tom Crane*, "As with almost every Shootout event, the match finished very closely though I did think after having a 4-1 lead after the first round we were in good shape. Then the second round started and, after posting the first half-point and a 4-1/2 to 1-1/2 lead, I was feeling pretty good."

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That is when the Okies dug in and ran the table with four straight wins. For Ms. Boevers, RRSO records credit her with four RRSO matches (RRSOs XVII, XVIII, XVIIISS, and XIX).

Crosstable: http://www.uschess.org/msa/XtblMain.php?202104179812

Time control this year was G/90;d5.

"Normally RRSO has 20 to 25 boards. One or two losses may not mean defeat because there are so many possible paths to victory." Commented RRSO Co-Founder *Jim Hollingsworth*. "But with only five boards, every match, move, and capture are exceptionally crucial."

Rebecca Rutledge was the RRSO organizer from the Okie side of the border and was instrumental in making it happen.

For only the second time in RRSO history, Oklahoma traveled south of the Red River. The pandemic prevented the match from being held in its normal venue (Davis, Oklahoma). It looked like the match may have to be cancelled or played online, like last year, to keep RRSO *"Heritage Event"* hopes alive (US Chess requires an event be conducted 25 straight years to achieve "Heritage" status). Next year we hope it will reach that milestone! Fortunately, Black Box Fitness Center in Fort Worth was available to keep the annual streak alive. Chief Organizer Tom Crane acquired the facility and recruited five closely matched players for each side.

The Okie Team. Bruce Wells, AKA "the most fanatical chess player in Oklahoma" for playing in more RRSO matches than anyone in history, was Oklahoma's Team Captain and played on Board 3. He was joined by Board 1 *Logan Zachare*, Board 2 *Shaun Graham*, Board 4 *Rubin Wells*, and Board 5 *Anna Boevers*.

Texas Chess Team Captain Tom Crane played on Board 4. He was joined by Board 1 *Jason Howell*, Board 2 *John Capps*, Board 3 *Bob Curtis*, and Board 5 *Chris Wood*. Tom Crane is also known as the most fanatical chess player in Texas for playing in more RRSO matches than any other Texan.

Rebecca Rutledge commented,

> *"For a while I was doubting the event would take place this year. Luckily I was wrong! I'm so glad Tom C pulled through with a venue, and that Oklahoma players lived up to the "fanatical" spirit of the RRSO by making the drive to Fort Worth.*
>
> *I'm grateful to all the past RRSO organizers for creating the fun culture around this event and making it so special for so many players. … It's the only tournament that can tempt Anna out of retirement — her last three tournaments are RRSOs! Anna always brings her "A" game and makes us proud in every way. She's a dynamite lady."*

Anna Boevers (photo by Lisa Boevers)

As all serious chess players know, the "REAL" Red River Shootout is a series of annual team matches between the most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas. Oklahoma has the trophy and bragging rights for another year. Pandemic willing, RRSO XX is scheduled for April 23, 2022, in Davis, OK. More information is on the RRSO website: http://rrsochess.com/

UNUSUAL CHESS STUFF IN THE MOVIES

WHEN CHESS IS USED FOR OTHER REASONS THAN TO MAKE A CHARACTER LOOK SMART

by Tom Braunlich

Chess frequently appears in the movies. But usually it is cast in a "supporting role," a prop used to signal the audience that a character is "smart." Often the villain is introduced playing chess or with a set around somewhere. This tells the audience that he has a calculating and scheming mind! Watch out for him!

Just as often the hero is introduced with a chess set too, especially if he or she is a detective. This shows the hero is erudite, well educated, and sophisticated.

So for example, we have this scene from the beginning of the 1956 classic movie *Around the World in 80 Days*. Phileas Fogg (David Niven) has a chess set in his London flat as a subliminal signal to us of his brilliance:

But many articles have been written about chess in the movies.

I'm interested here in showing a few fun examples of when chess is cast 'against type' and used in another way than just as a prop to make somebody look smart.

For example, do you remember this briefly seen chess-playing cop from in the classic 1958 horror flick *The Blob*? *(See image, top right)*

Here chess was used to show he was bored. He'd pass away the long hours in the

small town by studying chess, and so he was reluctant to go check out reports from some kids that there was a monster on the loose.

How about this scene from the terrific 1975 movie *The Wind and The Lion:*

The film portrays a real historic event when an American woman (played by Candice Bergen) touring through Morocco in 1904 is kidnapped and held for ransom by a daring Muslim insurrectionist named *Ransouli* (played by Sean Connery). President Teddy Roosevelt sends in the marines to rescue her.

Here chess is used to show Ransouli isn't as smart as he thinks he is — he is humiliated in front of his men as the American woman trounces him over and over!

(This great movie is never shown on TV anymore, I believe because it shows a Muslim army getting obliterated by brash Americans — which is no longer politically correct!)

In 1971's *The Omega Man*, Charleton Heston plays the last man on Earth. Here chess is used to show that he is lonely, and perhaps losing his grip on reality. He plays chess against a bust of Julius Caesar:

He makes a move and announces, "Discovered check! How does that grab you Caesar?"

Caeser doesn't respond, so the Omega Man points out, "Your move, Imperator."

Speaking of Emperors, chess is used to show someone irresponsible and obsessed with diversions in the 1951 film, *Quo Vadis:*

Here Emperor Nero plays chess even while rioters battle in the background and his civilization is crumbling. It's especially weird since chess was not even introduced to Europe until many centuries later!

In *Our Man in Havana* (1959) chess was used in a spoof of cold war intelligence services — and people who outsmart themselves. (The movie later became famous for anticipating many of the aspects of the real-life Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962). Here comedian Ernie Kovacs plays chess using a set made of liquor bottles, with Alec Guinness (yes, who later became famous as Obi-Wan Kenobi):

Finally, sometimes chess is used to contrast something supremely intellectual and normal with something bizarre.

Here's a great example from *Addams Family Values* (1993):

Gomez plays chess with "Thing." I wonder if thing could reach the eighth rank!?

TOP 25

For MAY 2020

Active Oklahoma Players

	Player	This Month	Change	
1	Advait Patel	2537	0	
2	Howard Zhong	2307	0	
3	Ryan Amburgy	2215	6	▲
4	Tom Braunlich	2200	0	
5	Mark Hulsey	2190	0	
6	Anthony Paolercio	2080	0	
7	Veronika Zilajeva	2080	0	
8	Tom Patton	2077	0	
9	Charles D Unruh	2063	0	
10	James Long	2054	0	
11	Michael Nugent	2042	0	
12	Charles M Unruh	2024	0	
13	Matt Dalthorp	2015	0	
14	Chuck Johnson	2010	0	
15	Jeff Colbert	2008	0	
16	Stephen Gehly	2000	0	
17	David Luscomb	1995	0	
18	Logan Zachare	1991	0	
19	Maxwell Barnes	1990	65	▲
20	Joe Dean Veal	1940	0	▼
21	Paul Hodgden	1935	0	▼
22	Wayne Hatcher	1926	0	
23	Harold Brown Jr.	1901	0	
24	Maxwell Xie	1862	0	▲
25	Adley Bufford	1857	-10	▼

Player of the Month

ANNA BOEVERS

Bruce Wells said it on Facebook: "Oklahoma had its own Beth Harmon! We defeated Texas thanks to our Queen on Board 5!"

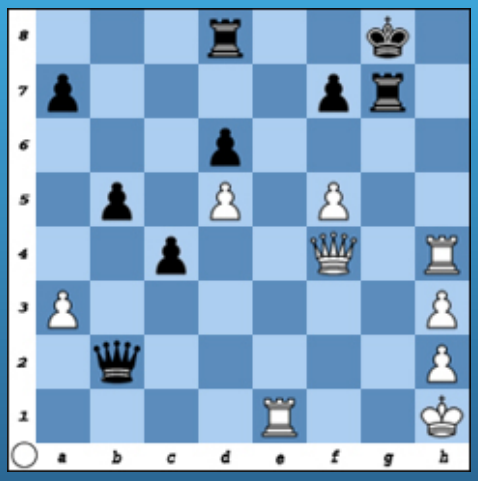
Breaking with the tradition of choosing an Okie-related game for the GOTM, I want to show this amazing masterpiece by super-GM Wesley So, which we studied in depth on our Tulsa club Zoomcast:

Wesley So (2770) –
Alireza Firouzja (2759) [B12]
Magnus Carlsen Invitational INT (1.22), 17.03.2021
(Notes by Tom B.)

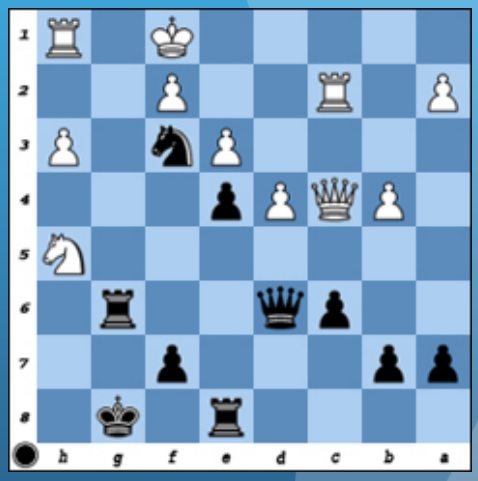
1.e4 c6
[This was a rapid game played in a mini-match quarter-final between Wesley and the up-and-coming 17-year-old GM who some predict will be a future challenger for the world championship. But Wesley obliterated him in this match, and at the time of this game Firouzja was in need of a win. Yet it is Wesley who played an instructive attack!]
2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3
[When I was young the moves like 4. g4 or 4. h4, trying to embarrass black's bishop, were all that was played here. Then Nigel Short came up with this quiet move that simply sought fast development and to exploit white's extra space, and it has now become the main line.]
4...e6 5.Be2 Ne7 6.0-0 h6
[Black has achieved his main goal of the Caro-Kann -- the active development of his QB outside the pawn chain. Here he makes a niche for it so that it won't get easily traded off for a white knight. But he is behind in development with moves like this!]
7.Nbd2 Nd7 8.Nb3 g5!?
[Firouzja chooses the most aggressive line of course, but it is not a surprise for So. It has

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



White to move and win. (Easy)



Black to move and win. (Easy)

become the main line in recent years, and Wesley has already played against it before.]

9.Bd2 [The main line starts with 9.Ne1]

9...a5 10.a4 Qc7 11.c3!?

[A new move! Previously Wesley had played Rc1 against Artemiev and won only after a long difficult struggle: 11.Rc1 Bg7 12.c4 0-0 13.h4 g4 14.Ne1 f6 15.exf6 Nxf6 16.g3 dxc4 17.Bxc4 Ned5 18.Qe2 Ne4 19.Ng2 Nxd2 20.Qxd2 Qf7 21.Rfe1 b6 22.Re2 Rad8 23.Rce1 Kh8 24.Ne3 Rd6 25.Nxf5 Qxf5 26.Bd3 Qf7 27.Bb1 Nb4 28.Qe3 Qf3 29.Qxf3 Rxf3 30.Nd2 Rf8 31.Rxe6 Rxd4 32.Ne4 Rfd8 33.Kg2 Kg8 34.Nf6+ Bxf6 35.Rxf6 R4d6 36.Ree6 Rxe6 37.Rxe6 h5 38.Bg6 Rd5 39.b3 Kg7 40.Be4 Rc5 41.Rg6+ Kf7 42.Rh6 Kg7 43.Rh7+ Kf6 44.f4 gxf3+ 45.Bxf3 Kg6 46.Rh8 Rc2+ 47.Kh3 Rc5 48.Be4+ Kg7 49.Rh7+ Kf6 50.Rh6+ Kg7 51.Rg6+ Kf7 52.Rg5 Rxg5 53.hxg5 b5 54.Kh4 bxa4 55.bxa4 c5 56.Kxh5 c4 57.Kh6 Kg8 58.Bh7+ 1-0 (58) So,W (2767)-Artemiev,V (2746) 2019]

11...f6?

[Firouzja needs to play aggressively and does so, but instantly begins to regret it after So starts to hammer his position from now on, catching the black king in the middle. Better would have been completing development with something like 11...Bg7 12.Rc1 0-0 13.h4 g4 14.Ne1 and a tough game in prospect.]

12.exf6 Ng6 [12...Nxf6 13.Ne5⌘]

13.c4! Bd6

[He wants to control the e5 square before playing ...Nxf6, but it is playing with fire to let that pawn live!]

14.cxd5 exd5

15.Bd3!!

[A brilliant shocker! So sacrifices material out of nowhere to catch the black king in the middle in

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) Sometimes one badly placed opponent's piece is the basis for a nice combination. Here it is the unprotected rook on the exposed d8 square. White plays 1. Rh8+!, Kxh8 2. Qh4+, Kg8 3. Qxd8+, Kh7 4. Qh4+ Kg8 5. Re8 mate. Black could play …Rh7 on move 2 but then it is an easy win for white with Qxd8+ and Rg1+.

(2) Here the queen invasion 1…Qh2! Is crushing. If white takes it, the black rook comes in for a mate in two, and otherwise White is losing that rook at least.

The "Chess Fools of Tulsa" are a fun social chess club that currently is meeting on ZOOM
Saturday mornings, 9:00am to Noon
Join us for puzzles, GM spectating, and more

Club play on Zoom is easy!
Get on our weekly email list, in which I send out puzzles we will discuss, plus local chess news and info on how to join us on Zoom.

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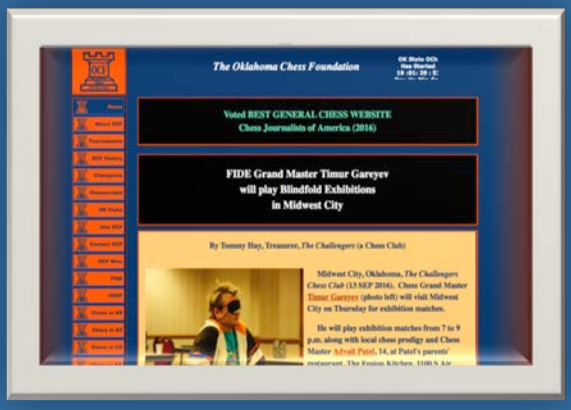
Visit
www.ocfchess.org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FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

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… and more

a very instructive fashion!]
15...Bxd3 16.Bxa5 Rxa5 17.Qxd3!
[This move captures back the key black bishop, guardian of his weak light squares, with gain of tempo on the suddenly loose N on g6. Though down a piece, White will soon be invading.]
17...Kf7 [Forced.]
18.Nxa5 Qxa5

19.Qf5
[White has given up two pieces for a rook, but this queen invasion is very hard for black to handle. His pieces are uncoordinated, while all four white's pieces will soon be attacking down the e-file.]
19...Qd8
[19...Nxf6? 20.Ne5+ Nxe5 21.dxe5 wins a piece decisively.; The computer prefers passive defense with 19...Ndf8 but that looks hopeless and remember Firouzja needs to win this game. Thus he brings back his Q to help, with active play. But So has seen further...]
20.Rae1
[Black still can't capture the annoying pawn on f6 with either Q or N.]
20...Ngf8

21.Re7+!
[Awesome.]
21...Bxe7 22.fxe7+ Kxe7 23.Re1+ Kd6 24.Ne5!

[White is a piece down, but the threat now of a family fork on f7 is impossible for black to meet. He can't capture on e5 because he loses his loose rook in the corner. It may seem that black can get out of trouble by moving his queen with a counter-threat, playing here ...Qa5 (hitting the rook on e1 so that Nf7+ doesn't work). However, So had already – a long time ago – foreseen a beautiful way to refute that Queen move. Do you see it?]

24...Rh7

[The only try. He plans to give up the exchange on f7 when white forks. But...]

25.Nxd7! Qxd7
[Black had no good way to recapture. Taking with the N on d7 would leave the rook on h7 hanging. And finally if 25...Re7 to set up a counter-threat on white's back rank, then white has a pleasant choice between 25. Ne5 with a winning attack, or transposing into a winning K+P ending with 26.Rxe7 Qxe7 27.Qxf8 Kxd7 28.Qxe7+ Kxe7 29.f3 etc.]

26.Qe5# 1-0

An instructive modern masterpiece by Wesley So -- and it was a rapid game!

OSCO Scholastic State Championship Slated for May 22 in Tulsa

After a full season of scholastic play that was disrupted and lost to the pandemic, OSCO has announced a championship event that aims at determining the state's qualifiers for the National scholastic title events this summer at the U.S. Open.

The event will by Saturday, May 22, in Tulsa at the Harvard Avenue Baptist Church (17th and Harvard Ave.)

Four rounds. Time Control: G/45+5. I believe it starts at 9:30am but check OSCO for details.

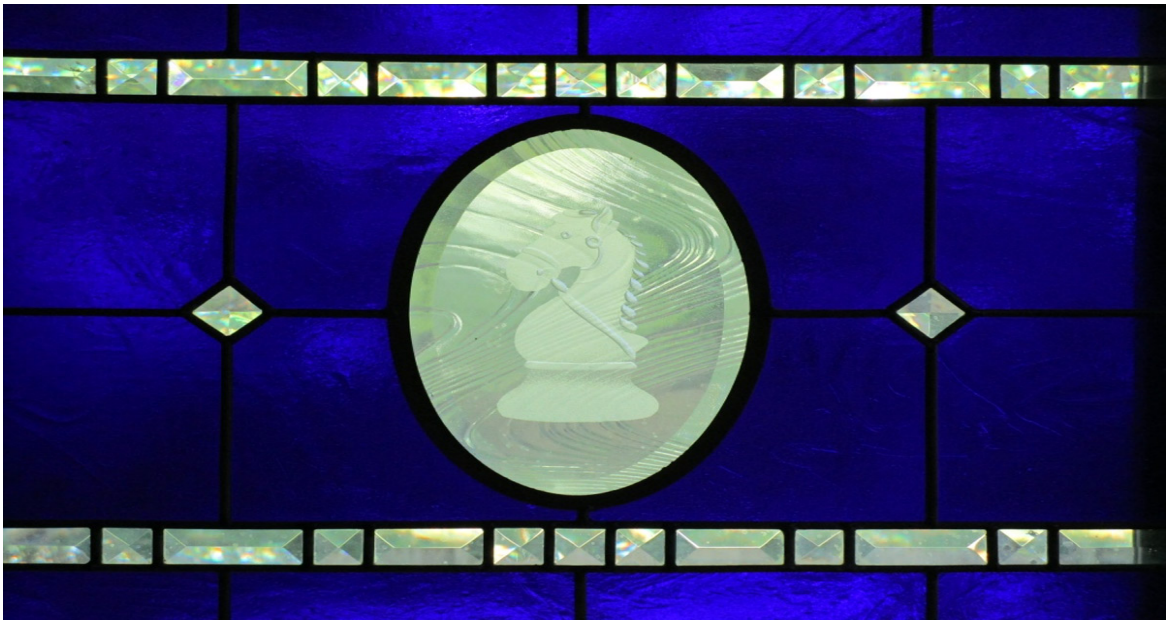
Eligible players are OSCO 'Premier' players plus a few other players who pre-qualified.

Winners in each of the four sections qualify for the national events such as the Denker Tournament of High School Champions. More info: OKscholasticchess@gmail.com

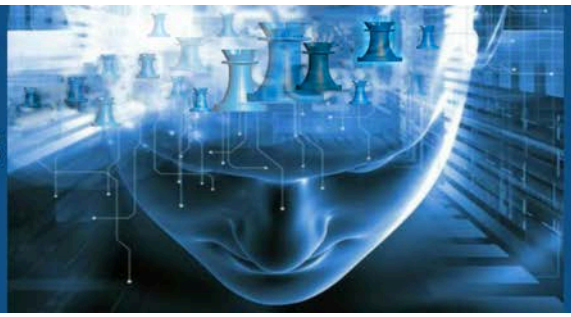
The Missouri State University Open, the first OTB tournament there in recent months, drew 16 players for the 5-round swiss and was won by Zachary L. Schuh (1865) of Kansas. The event was sponsored by the Joplin Chess Club. TD: Martin Stahl.

So finally an Oklahoma player makes the cover of a big national magazine! — Oh wait, he's fictional — the guy from the smash movie *The Queen's Gambit*. That's okay; we'll take it.

By the way, *American Chess Magazine* is great. See www.acmchess.com



UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS



For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

May 5-9 2021 — **MISSOURI GRAND CHAMPIONSHIP $10,000** — **Columbia MO**
7-SS or 9-SS, OTB FIDE-Rated Event with Covid Restrictions
https://new.uschess.org/missouri-grand-championship-10000

May 28-31 2021 — **76th Annual TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP** — **Fort Worth TX**
Major tournament with multiple sections over Memorial Day Weekend. For more info see:
https://new.uschess.org/76th-annual-texas-state-and-amateur-championships

June 25-27 2021 — **OCA 76th ANNUAL OKLAHOMA OPEN** — **Broken Arrow OK**
5-SS. G/90;d5 and G/120;d5. Three sections. $1000 Guaranteed Prizes. For more info see:
https://www.ochess.org

July 17-18 2021 — **QUEEN CITY OF THE PRAIRIE OPEN** — **Fort Worth TX**
5-SS. For more info see:
https://new.uschess.org/4th-annual-queen-city-prairie-open-fort-worth-championship

July 23-25 2021 — **2021 U.S. CLASS CHAMPIONSHIP** — **Houston TX**
National championship for class sections. For more info see:
https://new.uschess.org/2021-us-class-chess-championships

Aug 7 and Aug 14 — **STEVE WHARRY CONSAT CLASSIC** — **Tulsa OK**
4-SS with two traditional G/90+30 games played on each of two Consecutive Saturdays. Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. Three Sections: Open, Reserve (U1800), Novice (U1200). Prizes (b/30): Open: 1st-$200, X: $100, A: $100. Reserve: 1st-$125, C: $100, D: $100. Novice: 1st $125. U1000/UNR: $100. More if entries allow. REG: Each day, 9:00-10:15am. Rounds: 10:30am and 3:00pm each day. BYES: Two ½-point byes for either day if you can't make it to one of the game days. Entry Fee: $30 for both days, $20 per day if you can only play one day. Adv. Entries: www.paypal.me/Braunlich or T.Braunlich, 1638 S. Carson Ave #803, Tulsa OK 74119. Info: tom.braunlich@cox.net LS W. Free coffee and refreshments.

2021 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE IN OKLAHOMA

OCF is finalizing plans now for at least four more major "OTB" tournaments later this year in Oklahoma, including the Jerry Spann Memorial in downtown Tulsa at the Holiday Inn City Center, the FKB Memorial, The Holiday Open, and others. Stay tuned next month for the details.

By IM John Donaldson

REVIEW:
Two New Endgame Books by Thinkers Publishing

Endgames involving rooks and pawns occur more frequently than any other type and it behooves chess players of all levels to have at least a basic knowledge of how to play them. Exactly how much knowledge is required at what level is not a question with a precise answer, but certainly even the average club player (1600 rating) should know how to win a pawn up (Lucena position) or draw a pawn down (Philidor position). Sadly, that is often not the case.

Players that reach master level (2200 rating) should know how to defend more complicated positions when a pawn down. This, however, is just the starting point of what should be a lifelong learning process.

The past two decades have seen an explosion of books on the subject ranging from more general works which incorporate coverage of rook and pawn endings (Dvoretsky's *Endgame Manual* and De La Villa's *100 Endgames You Must Know*) to specialist efforts like John Nunn's *Secrets of Rook Endings* and the more accessible *The Survival Guide to Rook Endings* by John Emms.

Now add to this outpouring *Your Jungle Guide to Rook Endings* (Thinkers Publishing 2020, 398 pages, $35) by Greek GM Efstratios Grivas.

This book, which covers a lot of ground, could be mostly closely compared to *Understanding Rook Endgames* by Karsten Muller and Yakov Konoval. It seeks to not only teach fundamental endings but also how to play more complicated positions. This includes rook endings in which both sides have three pawns on the kingside and the superior side has a passed pawn on the other flank with the defender's rook behind this pawn. This type of ending, sometimes with a pawn more or less for each side on the kingside, come up often in practice and is quite important. Grivas certainly thinks so as Chapter 4 of his book which is over 100 pages long, is devoted to just this subject.

Your Jungle Guide to Rook Endings draws heavily on recent games and those from the author's practice for examples. There is more explanatory prose to be found here than in most endgame books and Grivas also offers a series of helpful tips throughout.

Your Jungle Guide to Rook Endings is not the first book on rook and pawn endgame you will need, but it may well be the last. It is primarily aimed at players over 2200 (or ambitious ones from 2000 on up).

To Exchange or Not? The Ultimate Workbook (Thinkers Publishing 2020, 191 pages, $29) is the follow-up to Eduardas Rozentalis' well-received 2018 book *The Correct Exchange in the Endgame?.* In his first book the Lithuanian GM dealt with the important issue of when to simplify or not to simplify, a topic previously not well-covered in chess literature.

In his sequel Rozentalis has provided 120 exercises to solve which all come with detailed solutions. The exercises are grouped into three categories, with the difficult exercises in the advanced chapter quite challenging indeed.

Those looking for active training to test and improve their abilities in this fundamental endgame skill will find this book quite helpful. *To Exchange or Not?* is primarily aimed at players over 2200 (or ambitious ones from 2000 on up).